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In return for guaranteed processing times, the general permit system has placed the burden of proof on the applicant. This means that you, as the applicant, must provide detailed information with your application that clearly shows that you meet the standards in each rule. The standards are listed in specific rule and are not flexible. If you do not show that your project meets all the standards, you will not be eligible for a general permit.

There are certain requirements that are common to all general permits and there are project specific requirements. The information in the right column is what you, as the applicant must provide. The left column shows the legal standard that you are meeting with that information. As part of your application, you must include any information that shows that you meet these criteria.

A general permit is needed for a Spawning Reef if the structure is proposed in an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest or within a Public Rights Feature. These waterway designations are found on the DNR website or you may have been informed of a public rights feature at the project site by the water management specialist.

Specific Spawning Reef Project Information		
Legal Standard Met	Plain English	
Spawning reefs shall be constructed of an aggregate of clean, uncrushed gravel and rock from 2 to 8 inches in diameter, in a ratio of approximately 30% ranging from 2 to 4 inches in diameter and approximately 70% ranging from 4.1 to 8 inches in diameter.	This outlines the material that will be used by fish for spawning. Your project plan, narrative and materials should all reflect these sizes.	
Spawning reefs shall be placed in a linear form parallel to the shore	This condition descried how a man-made reef mimics a natural reef. Walleye reefs require constant wave action to keep the rock clean of algae so this orientation is important. This should be shown on the plan.	
Spawning reefs shall be no longer than 100 feet along the shoreline and no wider than 30 feet perpendicular to shore and may not be placed more than 100 feet from shore.	This is the most effective size for a spawning reef. Your plans should be scaled and show these dimensions.	
Spawning reefs shall be placed where water depths range from 0 to 5 feet	This is the depth that natural walleye spawning reefs occur. This depth also provides the wave action and bottom slope that is needed. Your plan should clearly indicate the water depth where the reef is proposed.	
Spawning reefs may not be placed where the bottom contour of the waterway exceeds a slope of 4-foot horizontal to one-foot vertical.	This slope will allow the reef to be stable and not break apart and be moved by wave action. Your plan should show the bottom contour from the shore to the reef area.	
Spawning reefs may not be placed where the bottom substrate composition consists of less than 90% clean sand.	If the existing bottom is mostly clean sand there is no spawning habitat there. This also shows that there is enough wave action to keep the reef free of algae and that the substrate will support the reef.	
Any person placing a spawning reef shall, within 30 days after placement, provide written notice to the president or chair of any lake association, property owners association or lake district. The notice shall include a description of the spawning reef and include a lake map identifying the exact location of the reef. The person is also responsible for posting a laminated copy of the same map, within 30 days after placement, at all public boat landings on the waterbody, where the reef is located, for a period of not less than one year.	Because reefs are placed in shallow water it is important to notify lake users of a potential underwater obstruction that may not be visible from the surface. You must provide a copy of the map with your application packet.	

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Standards Applicable to All Fish Habitat Projects		
Legal Standard Met	Plain English	
The fish habitat structure may be placed and maintained only by a riparian	You must own land adjacent to the waterway to place any structure. Your application should include a copy of your deed. If the project is part of a club's activity, the owner of each shoreline property where the structure will be placed must submit a signed statement that they agree to be co-applicants	
The fish habitat structure shall be placed entirely within the riparian's zone of interest, as determined by one of the methods outlined in NR 326. Certain habitat structures may be placed beyond the line of navigation where allowed by rule.	Your overview plan should show the shoreline property, the neighbors property, and how you determined the riparian zone. A fish crib is required to be placed in at 0 to 5 of water so is one of the structures that can extend beyond the 3' water depth contour.	
The fish habitat structure shall be placed solely for the purpose of improving fish habitat.	A spawning reef cannot be placed in conjunction with some other project. It is solely for fish habitat improvement.	
A deposit of sand, gravel or stone under s. Stats., may be associated with the placement of a fish habitat structure provided the deposit is limited to the area immediately underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than 2 cubic yards.	This standard doesn't really apply to reefs, since the entire project consists of placement of rock.	
Dredging under s. 30.20 (1g) (b) 1., Stats., is not allowed for the placement of a fish habitat structure.	You are not allowed to remove any bottom material to place the spawning reef.	

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	General Standards Applicable to all GP's		
Leg	al Standard Met	Plain English	
	On trout steams and perennial tributaries to trout streams, Construction or placement is prohibited between September 15 and May 15 of any year.	You must provide a project beginning and end date that shows no construction during these black-out dates	
	On all waterways that are not trout streams, construction or Placement north of Hwy 29 is prohibited between April 1 and June 1 annually.		
	On all waterways that are not trout streams, construction or placement south of Hwy 29 is prohibited between March 15 and May 15 annually.		
	Erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the technical standards For erosion control approved by the Dept. under subch. V of ch. NR 151. Any Area where topsoil is exposed during construction shall be immediately seeded And mulched or riprapped to stabilize disturbed areas and prevent spoils from being washed into the waterway.	Your application must show how disturbed areas will be stabilized before and after construction	
	If the department determines that a proposal submitted under this section has the potential to impact an endangered or threatened species in accordance with s. 29.604, Stats., the application shall be deemed incomplete. The department may not consider the application complete or issue a general permit until the applicant submits information to demonstrate one of the following:	If there are threatened or endangered species issues at your project site based on a review of our database, your application is "on hold" until you have some type of approval from Bureau of Endangered Resources	
	<ul><li>a. that the project either avoids impacts to the threatened or endangered species or</li><li>b. that the project has received an incidental take</li></ul>		
	<ul><li>authorization under 29.602, Stats.</li><li>c. If the project is modified, the applicant must submit the revised plan before the application can consider the application complete or issue a general permit.</li></ul>		
	Unless part of a permanent stormwater management system, all temporary	Silt fence, hay bales or other erosion control measures cannot be left on site once the project is completed	
	Erosion and sediment control practices shall be removed upon final site stabilization.		
	Areas disturbed during construction or installation shall be restored		

This document is intended solely as guidance, and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule apply. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations, and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance cannot be relied upon and does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decision made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes, common law and administrative rules to the relevant facts.